

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 1, 2005. Claims 2 to 7, 11, 12 and 17 to 28 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 8 to 10 and 13 to 16 having been cancelled and Claims 17 to 28 having been added. Claims 2 to 4, 11 and 12 have been amended, and Claims 2 to 4, 11, 12 and 17 to 26 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

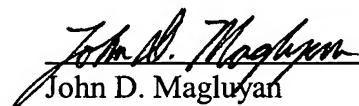
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 2 to 7, 11 and 12 34 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims. In keeping with the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2 to 4, 11 and 12, Applicants have rewritten each of Claims 2 to 4, 11 and 12 into independent form and to include the limitations of their respective base claims. Furthermore, newly-added independent Claims 17 to 21 are method claims which are seen to respectively correspond with Claims 2 to 4, 11 and 12, and newly-added independent Claims 22 to 26 are program claims which are seen to respectively correspond with Claims 2 to 4, 11 and 12. Consequently, each of independent Claims 2 to 4, 11, 12 and 17 to 26, together with their dependent claims, are seen to be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 8 to 10 and 13 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,862,019 (Kobayashi). Claims 1, 8 to 10 and 13 to 16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Accordingly, the foregoing actions are without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejection, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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